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To: Federal Communications Commission

I would like to submit the following comments to the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising". My name is Kimberly Barber. I am the Executive Director of the PEG station Bedford Community Access Television in Bedford, Massachusetts

Every town is unique with different cultural make ups. Each town has its own policies and laws that meet its own needs. This is the powerful way that individuals, via town meeting, get their voices heard and help shape their town. Local control via franchising gives the power to the community itself. Massachusetts towns are uniquely formed through the individual vote which keeps people involved and caring about their town. Local control keeps the community engaged, committed and empowered. Having the franchising control kept within the communities keeps telecommunication companies inline with the needs of that community. People need to know they have a say in the way information is given, controlled and that problems will be addressed.

Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) TV is an extremely valuable tool to individuals and organizations that make up a town. Non profit organizations such as: Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, family service organizations, town government meetings (Selectmen, School Committee, Town Meeting etc.), religious affiliates are just some of the groups PEG access supports in a town in an affordable way. Events and services such as fundraising for charities, awareness of senior services, religious services and school events are again some of the many ways PEG access daily serves a town. Youth have a place to come and learn valuable life experience for the work place later in life. Seniors keep active and empowered in their community. These people and organizations would never get their message out on network or cable network television. PEG access provides a local and accessible place for residents to express their Freedom of Speech, keep informed and stay engaged in life and in community.

As a supporter of Public Access TV in Massachusetts, I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises.

Kimberly Barber

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